Sugar Cane Production in Punjab

3354. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that sugarcane production in Punjab is much less than required for full working capacity of the sugar mills ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government are taking to increase sugarcane production in Punjab ; and

(c) whether new sugar mills are proposed to be set up in Punjab, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) and (b) During the season 1992-93, Sugarcane production in Punjab was 63.69 lakh tonnes. The licensed capacity of sugar mills in Punjab is 60.250 tonnes cane per day. Taking an average duration of 150 days, the requirement of cane for sugar mills in Punjab would be of the order of 90.37 lakh tonnes. Thus the cane production in Punjab is much less than that required for the full working capacity of the sugar mills.

In order to increase the cane production in the area of operation of sugar factories, financial assistance at concessional rates of interest is being provided from the Sugar Development Fund. Till 31-1-1994, a sum of Rs. 3,377.59 lakh has been sanctioned to sugar factories in Punjab for cane development schemes, of which Rs. 1,898.61 lakh have been disbursed.

(c) During the current sugar year 1993-94, no letter of intent has been granted for the setting up of a new sugar mill in Punjab.

Storage Capacity for Food Grains in the Country

3355. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) what is the required storage capacity for foodgrains in the country ;

(b) how much storage capacity is available at present ;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to non availability of storage capacity, heavy losses of foodgrains takes place ;

(d) if so, the extent of losses suffered due to non availability of storage and during transit of the foodgrains ;

(e) whether it is a fact that in the garb of permissable losses, large scale malpractices and corruption is rampant in FCI and other such agencies and the measures taken to prevent it ; and

(f) what steps are being taken for creating more storage capacity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI : (a), (b) and (f) The Working Group on Storage and Warehousing for the Eighth Plan (1990—95) had assessed the requirement of storage capacity for foodgrains at 23 million tonnes as on 1-7-1994. While this assessment related to the requirement on a micro level, the Working Group had also recommended the creation of certain capacities at the micro level to meet the needs of hilly, inaccessible and backward areas.

As on 1-2-1994, the total storage capacity available with Food Corporation of India for storage of foodgrains was 23.77 million. The Corporation also has plans to construct an additional capacity of 6.62 lakh tonnes during 8th Plan (1992—97) with emphasis on providing storage facilities in hilly, inaccessible and backward areas.

(c) and (d) There is no loss of foodgrains on account of inadequate storage facilities. Percentage of transit losses of foodgrains in FCI during the last three years is as under :—

Year	Percentage
1990-91	1.67%
1991-92	1.88%
1992-93	1.65%